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US Army Corps of Engineers
New England District

Yankee Engineer

Volume 38, No. 1 October 2001

Going into the Red Zone:

Volunteers shaken to the core when they entered the Gates of Hell

Photo by F.T. Eyre

Corps of Engineers employees gather at the bottom of the debris pile that was once the World Trade Center Towers.

By Justine Barati
World Trade Center Public Affairs Support Team

"It was as if the earth had been ripped open, exposing the bastions of hell," said Kurt Amundsen, Jacksonville District.

"The physical destruction is one thing, it is hard to relate that there's probably about 5,000 people within that rubble," said John Kedzierski, New England District.

"I've been down there five times and I'll never get used to going down there," said Gary Kehoe, North Atlantic Division.

The "Red Zone" is the restricted area around the site of the World Trade Center Towers, also known as "Ground Zero."

Kehoe is the coordinator of the Corps' access to the zone. He works with the state and city emergency management offices to coordinate access into the area by Corps personnel.

Continued on page 10

Yankee Voices

Lauren Faucher
Regulatory Division

Congratulations

…to **Patricia Sumner** on her selection as chief of the Safety Office.

…to retiree **Mary A. Sullivan**, who turned 95 on Oct. 18.

Welcome

Patrick Blumeris	Eng/Plng
Jayson Ilic	Eng/Plng
David Mark	Eng/Plng
Clifford Opdyke	Eng/Plng
Peter Tischbein	Con-Ops

They're not just for Jack-o-Lanterns

Don't just carve up that Halloween pumpkin: eat it! Pumpkins provide vitamins A and C, fiber, potassium, and phosphorus.

Not only that, these colorful fall veggies are an important and tasty source of the antioxidant beta-carotene, a nutrient that many scientists believe can stimulate your body's immune system and decrease your risk for infection and cancer.

So celebrate the season with pumpkin -- roasted, steamed, pureed, or (best of all) in a pie. *(Ideas Unlimited)*

Operation Dear Abby 2001 fleet addresses listed

Mailing addresses for the 2001 holiday season "Operation DEAR ABBY" have been announced by the Military Postal Service Agency, and this year, this mail is being targeted to Fleet Mail Centers and U.S. Military Aerial Mail Terminals overseas, instead of to specific units or countries, to ensure that the mail is evenly distributed to all services across the board.

Operation DEAR ABBY is a goodwill effort begun 17 years ago by nationally syndicated columnist Abigail Van Buren to bring holiday cheer to the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces. To ensure the mail is received within the required time window and falls within Department of Defense security guidelines, the mail will be limited to first class letter mail, 13 ounces or less only.

There are two Fleet Mail Center addresses for Operation DEAR ABBY mail this year, and these addresses will accept Operation DEAR ABBY mail from November 15, 2001 to January 15, 2002. The two Fleet Mail Center addresses are: Any Service Member, OPERATION DEAR ABBY, FPO AE 09646 (Mediterranean Basin); and Any Service Member, OPERATION DEAR ABBY, FPO AP 96385 (Pacific Basin). *(Militaryreport.com)*

Sympathy

…to the family of **Graham Wood**, Construction/Operations retiree, who passed away Sept. 24. Mr. Wood worked in the EPA Support Branch. Cards and letters may be sent to his wife, **Linda**, at: 1430 Buck Knobs Rd., Ekron, KY 40117-8535.

…to the family of Engineering retiree **Anne Clark**, who passed away Oct. 3. Anne retired in 1997 with over 17 years of service. Cards and letters may be sent to her family at 10 Parsons Ave., Waltham, MA 02453.

…to the family of former Real Estate employee **Karen MacDonald**, who passed away Oct. 8. Karen transferred to the Jacksonville District's Real Estate Division in June 1999. She is survived by her husband, **Richard**, son **Wesley**, and daughter, **Meagan**. Cards and letters may be sent to her family at: 1060 Flora Parke Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32259

… to Engineering retiree **Mary Mirabile** on the passing of her husband, **Nicolo**, Oct. 9. Cards and letters may be sent to Mary at 26 Windsor Terrace, Waltham, MA 02453.

YANKEE ENGINEER is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper under provisions of AR 360-1 published monthly. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions from readers are solicited, but publication depends on judgment of the editor. No payment will be made for contributions. Published by the Public Affairs Office, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord MA 01742-2751, 978-318-8777. Printed by the offset method on recyclable paper by the Defense Printing Office in Boston, Mass. Circulation 1600. The YANKEE ENGINEER can be found on the World Wide Web at http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/news/yankee.htm

District Engineer .....Col. Brian E. Osterndorf
Chief, Public Affairs .....Larry Rosenberg

Editor .....Ann Marie R. Harvie
Media Relations Officer.....Timothy J. Dugan
Public Affairs Specialist.....Sally M. Rigione

Chief of Engineers speaks on Sept. 11 tragedy

by Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers
Chief of Engineers

On Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, I watched in horror with the rest of the nation the cowardly acts of terrorism that brought death and destruction to thousands of Americans in New York City and at the Pentagon.

With a level of success that probably far exceeded their expectations, the terrorists achieved their goals of shock, murder, and destruction of glass and mortar.

What they did not achieve, and could not, was their goal to destroy America's spirit, will or resolve. Those qualities are woven into the American character and no cowardly deed will ever steal that from us.

Many heroes emerged in the aftermath of the disasters. The hundreds of brave firefighters and policemen in New York City who sacrificed themselves while saving others. Military and civilian personnel at the Pentagon who immediately responded to help injured and fallen coworkers escape danger. And, finally, the brave passengers aboard the final hijacked aircraft whose courage resulted in an aircraft falling in a Pennsylvania field far from the terrorists' intended targets in Washington, D.C.

The immediate response of the United States Army Corps of Engineers is yet another reason I am so proud to be the 50th Chief of Engineers. Corps employees called from every division and district to say they were ready, willing and volunteering to do whatever was needed to support the coming mission.

At one point, more than 160 Corps members had deployed from across the nation to New York City to join the 750 NAD and NAN employees who work in the city. Those deployed included structural engineers skilled in urban search and rescue, debris management specialists, logistics and contracting personnel, and the soldiers of the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power). More have come to the Pentagon and the headquarters.

With each trip to New York City, I am amazed and in awe of what the city has accomplished in a very short time under difficult conditions. Through our mission with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, I want New York City to know that the Corps is prepared to do more to help.

There are many reasons for the Corps to be proud of its role thus far.

In the hours following the WTC disaster, seven Corps vessels ferried more than 2,000 people from south Manhattan and brought many emergency personnel into the city on return trips. Urban search and rescue experts have assisted the city in determining areas that are safe for rescue parties. The 249th Engineer Battalion assisted the local power company with emergency generator installation and the evaluation of crucial power grids needed to get the heart of the nation's financial sector back into operation. Debris planners have developed a draft debris operations plan to assist the city.

At the Pentagon, the Corps has been recognized for force protection measures used during the renovation that significantly limited damage in comparison to the older portion. Corps analysis of the damage will be used to enhance research into even more effective ways of providing future force protection design.

'The immediate response of the United States Army Corps of Engineers is yet another reason I am so proud to be the 50th Chief of Engineers. Corps employees called from every division and district to say they were ready, willing and volunteering to do whatever was needed to support the coming mission.'

- Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, Chief of Engineers

The United States Army Corps of Engineers built the Pentagon in 16 months, completing it in January 1943. We are ready to assist with the restoration of the damaged area in any way DoD needs.

The Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Thomas E. White, traveled to New York City on Sept. 19 and saw the outstanding work being done by the Corps to accomplish its FEMA mission. Afterward, Secretary White came to the headquarters in Washington, D.C., to receive a briefing on Corps capabilities.

One statement made by the Secretary in particular made everyone take notice. Mr. White stated, "The Corps of Engineers has done many magnificent things, but I think the Corps' finest hour is yet to come."

Of one thing I am certain - I am privileged to be the leader of an incredibly dedicated and talented group of people. When America calls again, the 35,000 men and women of the Corps will be ready.

Commander's Corner:
When our nation calls

by Col. Brian E. Osterndorf
District Engineer

Nobody could have seen it coming. The last thing anyone could have expected would be airplanes deliberately crashing into American buildings on an otherwise tranquil September day. Nobody anticipated before September 11, 2001, that we would shortly be at war with terrorism.

Funny how things change so suddenly. One of the more recognizable faces now on television, Osama Bin Laden, had been a figure that was used to skulking in the shadows. The targets that the terrorists chose were selected to make us victims, but instead have become symbols of our nation's resolve. The holes in the New York City skyline, or in the side of the Pentagon, remind us not only of what we have lost, but they also now remind us of our shared commitment to defend our way of life and the things we value.

As a nation, we have come together in the face of this adversity and we have been reminded of what is important to us. Similarly, in the New England District, we re-prioritized the things we were working on and as quickly our reactions went from shock and horror, to anger, and then to resolve and desire to pitch in, the true strength of the Corps of Engineers became evident.

The people of the Corps responded. Almost universally, you either volunteered to deploy to New York City to directly participate in response actions, or you stepped up to shouldering the load in the District to support those efforts and to keep the business of the district running smoothly.

Photo by F.T. Eyre

Col. Osterndorf (left) and Lt. Gen. Flowers discuss the Corps mission at Ground Zero.

And we made a difference. The Corps was better and more quickly organized than any other federal agency, and we were ready to get to work before most other agencies even showed up. The city of New York quickly came to respect the contributions and capabilities of the Corps, and we became the most welcome of all the federal agencies. Moreover, New York City recognizes the Corps' ability to assist not only during the response phase, but also as the city recovers and rebuilds.

As an organization and as individuals, we gained something, too. As I said at the town hall meeting on September 28: Each of us that participated, either in New York or in New England, grew a little professionally, gained a little more confidence in our abilities to apply our skills even in new and adverse conditions, and appreciated a lot more what it means to be an American and a member of the Corps of Engineers.

Thank you for what you mean to our nation. Hopefully, we will not be called upon again to serve in circumstances like these. But, we can expect to be called upon again. We have demonstrated clearly the capabilities of the Corps to step up to an emergency or contingency and provide the world's best engineering services. We will continue to be invaluable to our nation as it confronts significant challenges in the years ahead. I know that the members of the New England District can and will respond when called upon, and I again thank you for what you do and will do.

Commentary:
Quechee Gorge gets new Welcome Center

by Roxanne Barbeau, Park Ranger
North Hartland Lake/Union Village Dam

"Restrooms. Oh, man, do we need to stop and find a place that has restrooms. And brochures, so we can find out what there is to do around here."

"And we definitely have to stop somewhere and find out where here is! You can call this a mystery drive if you want to honey, but I say we're lost!"

"All right, Roxanne! For $100,000, What Is The Question?"

"Ooh, ooh! What are comments made by a couple about to divorce! No- wait, Alec, it's what are comments made by a couple badly in need of a visitor center! Oh, if only they could find one…"

Well, if our couple is in the village of Quechee, Vermont, in 2002, they could stop by the Corps' new Visitor Center. Once upon a time, this kind of building was known as a "rest stop" and featured bathrooms with leaky toilets and if you were lucky, a brochure rack, and road maps tacked to a wall.

Today's centers have staffed, extensive information booths, interpretive exhibits, sometimes sale items, and of course, the all-important bathroom. It is a far cry from what you used to find off highways, and they serve millions of visitors a year.

How did the Corps of Engineers get into the Visitor Center business? In 1999, a local group called the Friends of Quechee Gorge made an observation. Quechee Gorge, a natural attraction that draws 500,000 visitors a year, has no amenities for them.

No public bathrooms, no interpretive exhibits to help them understand and appreciate what they were seeing. The group felt these things were needed, and petitioned the federal government for a grant and master plan for the Gorge and received both.

New England District contractor Dufresne Henry's rendition of the new Welcome Center at Quechee Gorge, Vermont.

The Quechee Gorge Master Plan agreed that accommodations needed to be made for its visitors, and suggested that a Visitor Center, with facilities, exhibits, and a staffed information counter, be built. It was further recommended that the best location for such a structure was on property owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Visitors will be able to enjoy state of art exhibits featuring our agency's history, purpose, and mission.

With a federal grant of $1.25 million in hand, the nearby town of Hartford, approached the New England District commander to inquire if the Corps would accept ownership of such a structure. With stipulations, the commander agreed, and a partnership was formed.

It will work like this: the town of Hartford will assume responsibility for the center's construction, the Corps will assume responsibility for the building's physical maintenance and capital improvements, and the Quechee Chamber of Commerce will be in charge of staffing the building and running its offices. And the partnerships don't end there.

North Hartland Lake Manager, Mark Rosenthal, has been acting as the Corps' liaison on this project, working with the other partners on everything from traffic flows to building design. He and other North Hartland Lake staff will be heavily involved in the design and placement of the Center's interior interpretive displays.

While there will be exhibits featuring Quechee Gorge, the village of Quechee, and the state of Vermont, the Corps will certainly not be overlooked.

Visitors will be able to enjoy state-of-the-art exhibits featuring our agency's history, purpose, and mission. In addition to exhibits, this two-level, 3,200-square-foot center will have brochure racks, a staffed information desk, a meeting room, administrative offices, and of course, all important restrooms. Important definitely, when you consider that the building is expected to serve ultimately 125,000-150,000 visitors a year.

And after they've used the facilities, picked up some brochures, and been pointed in the right direction, they might dine al fresco on the Center's patio, or attend one of the interpretive programs that will be offered there. So, for all of you contemplating a mystery drive to northern New England in 2002, make Quechee Gorge and its new Visitor Center one of your destinations. They'll leave a light on for you.

New England District completes final EIS for Providence River and Harbor dredging

by Timothy J. Dugan
Public Affairs

The New England District is nearing the completion of a study that is analyzing maintenance dredging of the Providence River and Harbor in Rhode Island.

A Public Information meeting was held on Sept. 26 at the Community College of Rhode Island, Knight Campus, Warwick, R.I., for members of the public, government and private agencies to obtain more information and make official comments.

The proposed work involves dredging of the authorized federal navigation channel in the Providence River at Providence, R.I. "Shoaling has reduced depths in the channel as much as 10 to 12 feet in places creating draft restrictions and significant time delays for deep draft vessels using the project," said Project Manager Edward O'Donnell.

Dredging would remove about 3.9 million cubic yards (mcy) of material to restore the channel back to authorized dimensions. Material determined to be suitable for unconfined open water disposal (about 2.8 mcy) will be placed at an offshore disposal site in Rhode Island Sound. The material considered unsuitable for unconfined open water disposal (about 1.1 mcy) will be placed in several in-channel Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) cells in the upper river. Material removed to create the CAD cells (about 1.7 mcy) will be disposed at the open water site in Rhode Island Sound. In all, 5.6 mcy of material will be dredged.

A portion of the CAD material that is mostly sand and gravel may be placed at two dewatering sites located adjacent to the upper river. A small amount of the sand and gravel (about 10,000 cy) from the CAD cells may be used to enhance bird habitat at Spar Island. Corps officials estimate the work would take about 18 months to complete and is contingent on the availability of required approvals, federal funding and state cost share funding.

Photo provided by Ed O'Donnell

Aerial view of Providence River and Harbor.

The proposed work is being coordinated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, and the state of Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Management Council, the Department of Environmental Management, the Rhode Island State Historic Preservation Officer and the Narragansett Indian Tribe.

"The maintenance dredging in the authorized navigation project is consistent with the applicable management program established as a result of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972," said Ed. "The dredging operations will be conducted to the maximum extent practicable in a manner that is consistent with the approved management program. The dredged material has undergone physical analysis and it is the Corps' preliminary determination that the material is acceptable for disposal at the proposed sites."

The federal channel in the Providence River was last dredged in 1976 when 100,000 cubic yards of material was removed. Prior to that the channel was last fully dredged from 1969 to 1971 when 2.7 mcy of material was dredged and placed at the Brenton Reef Open water disposal site in Rhode Island Sound.

"Preliminary determinations indicate that the proposed activity will not affect any endangered species or critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973," Ed said.

The proposed work involves maintenance of previously dredged areas and would not affect any cultural or archaeological features. Suitable material will be disposed of at a deep water site in Rhode Island Sound (Site 69b). Unsuitable material will be placed at an in-channel CAD site located in the upper river. Site 69b is located in the separation zone of the shipping lanes into Narragansett Bay in about 130 feet of water. The CAD sites are located in the Fox Point Reach of the Providence River channel in about 40 feet of water.

Preliminary determinations are that the proposed action will have no significant adverse impacts on essential fish habitat, as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996. According to Ed, impacts from dredging and disposal are expected to be short-term and localized.

Continued on next page

Unexploded ordnance discovered, destroyed during Corps' cleanup at Camp Good News

by Timothy J. Dugan
Public Affairs

Using its authority under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) to cleanup contaminated soils at the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS), now known as Camp Good News, the Corps of Engineers' New England District discovered two rounds of unexploded ordnance (one 60 mm round and one 81 mm round).

To ensure the public's health and safety, the Corps took action by destroying the unexploded ordnance in place on Aug. 16.

The Corps has taken immediate action to secure the site from public entry. Additional investigations will also be undertaken to determine the extent and degree of site contamination to include any unexploded ordnance. Any unexploded ordnance discovered during the Corps' investigations will be removed.

Camp Good News is a private property that abuts a portion of the easterly boundary of the Massachusetts Military Reservation. The Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) parcel consists of approximately 55 acres of the 183-acre camp. A portion of the 55-acre parcel is known as the Former H Range South.

Former H Range was active during World War II and mortar-firing positions were located on the property of Camp Good News. Former H North is located on the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR).

Former H North and Former H South historically formed one large training area. The training area included mortar firing positions, bunkers and other training facilities.

On Aug. 13, Weston mobilized onto Camp Good News to begin removing lead-contaminated soil from a former small arms range. Weston began to clear the brush from the access road and the contaminated soil area as an initial task. As part of the brush clearing operation the area was scanned for potential unexploded ordnance for safety. The unexploded ordnance scan identified approximately 85 anomalies (buried metal). Each of these anomalies was investigated by excavation. Two unexploded ordnance were uncovered and were destroyed in place on Aug. 16. Three anomalies were unexploded fragments and 80 anomalies were metallic debris (nails, wire, etc.).

In 1999, the Corps determined that this site was formerly used by DoD and therefore eligible for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program.

An investigation will follow to locate other anomalies within the Former H Range firing fan. Other investigations at the Camp Good News FUDS parcel include removal of approximately 600 cubic yards of lead and dieldrin contaminated soil, soil sampling at military features such as bunkers and ground water sampling for petroleum hydrocarbons. These projects are scheduled for August through November 2001. The anomaly investigation has not been scheduled.

The Department of Defense is committed to correcting environmental damage caused by its activities. The Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) is the vehicle to accomplish this. The cleanup of Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) is a part of this program. FUDS are those properties that the Department of Defense once owned or used, but no longer controls. These properties can range from privately-owned farms to national parks. The FUDS program includes former Army, Navy, Air Force, or other defense agencies' properties.

Dredging...

Continued from previous page

"We have requested Water quality certification from the Department of Environmental Management for the project under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977," he said.

The Clean Water Act of 1977 requires that the work comply with state or interstate requirements to control the discharge of dredged or fill material.

These state requirements must be met where applicable before any work seaward of the ordinary high water line or adjacent to wetlands may be accomplished.

"The decision on whether or not to perform the work will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest," said Ed.

That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments.

All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, and the welfare of the public.

30 Second Commercials

Dave Larsen, Engineering/Planning

As a member of Planning Branch, I have the responsibility for conducting water resource studies that fall within the New England District's purview. These may be efforts under the Continuing Authorities Program for flood prevention, erosion control, shore protection, navigation or environmental restoration. Planning Branch also conducts Congressionally authorized general investigations and provides technical assistance in response to inquiries from communities or agencies.

I must secure the District or contract resources necessary to move projects forward, then prepare project management plans and direct interdisciplinary project delivery teams that perform the investigations. I prepare reports based on that input and coordinate technical responses, as required. I create the financial framework in CEFMS that is required to distribute and track study and project funds.

I also provide liaison between the Corps, our project partners and other agencies. That coordination provides an important component of customer satisfaction. For me, the payoff is my involvement in a variety of projects that benefit the public. It is gratifying to be a part of a larger team that serves New England and the rest of the nation in so many ways.

Antoinette Turcotte, Internal Review Office

I am currently employed as an audit assistant in the Internal Review Office, which consists of the Chief and myself. I have worked in this office since 1984 and I consider my job as challenging, exciting and stimulating. No two days are exactly alike. In my daily duties, besides taking care of the necessary administrative work that every office must attend to, I now have increased responsibility for assisting the Chief in meeting various task deadlines, providing audit reports to management and fulfilling upward reporting requirements electronically.

I contact division and office chiefs to obtain information on the current status of audit recommendations, and arrange for entrance and exit audit conferences for our external customers such as USAAA, DoD, EIG, etc. Additionally, I utilize a specialized database program to assist in processing monthly cost-reimbursable contractor invoices for an internal customer.

Besides my normal job duties, outside the office I have been an active member of Toastmasters International for the past 15 years. At the encouragement of my supervisor, I joined the Trapelo Noon Talkers Club which met twice a month at the previous Waltham location. I progressed from holding various club leadership roles, including president, to positions beyond the club level serving Massachusetts District 31 in the capacity of Area Governor and Division Governor. For the last several years I have been treasurer of the Advanced Speakers Club in Waltham. Previous to Toastmasters, I was a volunteer teacher of a one-hour religious class for 20 years at our church school.

I'm proud to be a part of the Corps New England District team made up of competent personnel from various fields of endeavor.

How about you? The Yankee Engineer is seeking District employees to provide their 30 second commercials for publication in future issues. The Chief of Engineers has asked every Corps employee to develop 30 seconds worth of information that describes your role and how you provide quality service to the citizens of New England. If you have your commercial ready and would like to participate, please e-mail Ann Marie Harvie.

Volunteers go to West Hill Dam for Work Day event

Sunshine, light breezes, and a desire to help the environment prompted approximately 40 volunteers to gather at the New England District's West Hill Dam on Sept. 22 for its second annual Work Day. The Work Day provided volunteers the opportunity to improve public lands and to learn new skills and technical design.

Registration and light refreshments were held under the large shelter promptly at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers divided into crews led by Park Rangers Brad Walley and Viola Bramel, and Park Managers Dave Hebert and Keith Beecher. Park Hosts Beverly and Raymond Haynes and Nancy and Andy Anderson also played key roles in the success of the event.

"Viola has headed this event for the past two years and has done an outstanding job developing the list of jobs to be accomplished, and recruiting the volunteers to do the work," said Park Manager Dave Hebert.

Some of the work performed by the volunteers included installing two wheelchair accessible pads in the short beach picnic site, installing signs along the Woodland Trail; installing waterbars near a vernal pool to protect sensitive habitat; and relocating $2,000 of landscape shrubs.

Workers cut brush away from a trail during West Hill Dam's Work Day. Photo provided by West Hill Dam

"Imagine, in just four hours, all of those projects were completed," said Park Ranger Viola Bramel. "I invited my crew to stand along the shoreline of the vernal pool they helped protect, and invited them back for fall and spring migration when the reproduction of several salamanders and wood frogs occurs."

The volunteers put in approximately 136 volunteer hours totaling about $2,990 savings in labor.

After the work, a picnic lunch was provided for the volunteers. Park Rangers presented certificates to all of the volunteers during a ceremony to express the District's appreciation for their efforts.

Volunteers ended the day by enjoying the recreational facilities West Hill Dam affords. Viola indicated that she was pleased with the event.

"To see so many people pitch in to give back to their public lands and then enjoy the fruits of their labor is wonderful," said Viola. "Our host couples have already committed to return for the 2002 season. They have a strong fondness for what they describe as a beautiful family park."

Photo by Donna Vondle

Canoeing in Vermont

The New England District's Ball Mountain Dam in Vermont released water at 1,300 cubic feet per second into the West River on Sept. 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for canoe races.

Approximately 1,500 people took part in the event. The majority of the paddlers launched from Ball Mountain Dam's Jamaica State Park, located just below the dam outlet.

Photo by F.T. Eyre

Trucks remove debris from the Red Zone.

Photo by F.T. Eyre

Col. Osterndorf talks to the press near Red Zone.

Corps employees go into the Red Zone

Continued from page 1

Access to the zone is severely limited to prevent the theft of crime-scene evidence and personal property. The safety of the general public is also a consideration.

"There is a large volume of heavy equipment (cranes, dump trucks, front loaders, etc.) operating in the area. Early concerns for safety included the possibility of injury resulting from falling debris and/or the possible collapse of additional structures in the immediate area, which suffered collateral damage during the attack on the World Trade Center," said Kehoe.

"The firemen don't want anyone down there sightseeing, this is hallowed ground now," said Kehoe. "They [the firemen] have lost more than 300 of their brother firefighters and they continue to work their rescue operation with undaunted resolve as they dig through the rubble that was once a grand and glorious office complex."

Those who enter the area must have a special pass. These passes are displayed at checkpoints run by the state police, the National Guard, and the New York Police Department. The guards also monitor the area inside the zone for safety, making sure people are not blocking heavy equipment.

Only mission-essential employees and visiting dignitaries are allowed in the area. "The dignitaries must see the devastation in person to better appreciate what has happened here," said Kehoe.

"There is no comparison between seeing and smelling the devastation first hand and seeing it via video and photographic images. I believe these visits will ensure they have no second thoughts when it comes time to act and provide the funding and personnel needed to prevent such a horrific incident from ever happening again."

Stephen Browning, South Pacific Division, assisted with the dignitary visits, including multiple Congressional tours within the zone. He says his job is to tell them about the great work the Corps is doing and according to him, "that's an easy sell." *(Justine Barati is from Rock Island District.)*

Photo by F.T. Eyre

Corps employees get words of encouragement from Brig. Gen. Rhoades.

Photo by Peter Shugert

The debris from the World Trade Center still smolders.

Health and Wellness

Three-part plan for early detection:
Early detection is key in fighting breast cancer

by TSgt Brenda Fernandes
Hanscom AFB Health and Wellness Center

When you mention the possibility of breast cancer, people rush to you with unsolicited advice and terrifying stories. Learn to tune out the advice of negative people and seek expert medical opinions. Eight out of 10 breast lumps are not cancerous.

This is good news! Over two million breast cancer survivors are alive in America today. If you find a lump, don't panic-call your doctor for an appointment.

We must remember to place our health care first on our agenda. When mapping out weekly appointments, treat exercise time as an appointment with yourself.

Consistent exercise and correct eating merge into the development of a lean, fit body. High energy and mental alertness follow. Have fun with your exercise. Experiment until you find something you enjoy.

Eat for nutrition by placing healthy foods in prominent places in your kitchen. Arrange fruits and vegetables in attractive containers so they are the first things you see when you open your refrigerator. This will diminish your desire for sweets.

Take healthy snacks to work with you or when you don't think you will have time to eat a meal. Always have easy access to water, even if you have to carry it with you.

Settle in your mind what you dream of achieving in your life beyond your successful career. Mental stress swings the door open to physical illness, exhaustion and other distressing body disorders.

When you are at peace with yourself, you eliminate internal struggle, which is one of your greatest stress sources.

Most importantly remember that early detection is your best protection. Oftentimes women do not examine their breasts because of the fear of what they might find.

As many as 70-percent of women who do breast self-exams find their own lumps. You know your body and can detect unusual changes. Go to the doctor immediately when you find a lump in your breast. Don't let fear keep you from staying healthy. When breast cancer is found early, the five-year survival rate is 96-percent.

Here is a three-part plan for early detection:

1 - Annual doctor exams. See your doctor if you have any suspicious changes in your breasts.

2 - Monthly self-breast exams. Observe differences in your breasts.

3-Regularly scheduled mammograms. Your first one should begin by age 35-40 or five years earlier than a mother, sister, or aunt first experienced breast cancer.

For more information, contact the Hanscom Health and Wellness Center (HAWC) at (781) 377-6560 or sign on to the internet at www.nationalbreastcancer.org.

Breast cancer: facts and factors

The U.S. and Canada have the highest rates of breast cancer in the world, say the American and Canadian Cancer Societies (October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the U.S. and Breast Health Month in Canada).

In 1993, an estimated 182,000 cases were diagnosed in women in the U.S.; 16,300 in Canada.

Breast cancer was the cause of death for more than 51,000 women in both countries in 1993. But awareness and early detection efforts have helped increase survival rates.

The American and Canadian Cancer Societies recommend that women begin mammogram screening by age 40; women 40 to 49 should have a mammogram every two years; women over 50 should have screening every year.

Monthly breast self-examinations are suggested for women over age 20.

Warning signals include breast changes that persist, such as a lump, thickening, swelling, dimpling, skin irritation, distortion, pain, or tenderness of the nipple. Risk increases with age and with a family history of cancer.

(Ideas Unlimited)

District Engineer holds special town meeting:
Terrorist attacks and the Corps' recovery role discussed

Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer, held a special town meeting Sept. 28 to discuss the role of the Corps of Engineers in the recovery effort in New York City. The World Trade Center towers were destroyed during a terrorist attack, Sept. 11.

Col. Osterndorf and a team of District employees deployed to New York on Sept. 12, and formed the Emergency Response and Recovery Office (ERRO). Col. Osterndorf served as commander until his return to Concord, Mass., Sept. 27.

A PowerPoint presentation with pictures illustrating the devastation at the World Trade Center played in the background as Col. Osterndorf spoke.

"We got the mission to establish the ERRO at 11 p.m. on the night of the 11th," he said. "The New England District's job was to set up an organization that would support the Federal Emergency Management Agency in its direction of the federal emergency response plan for the New York City disaster."

According to Col. Osterndorf, about 29 Corps activities were involved.

Photo by Mark McInerney

Col. Osterndorf discusses the Corps Mission in New York.

"Just about every district in the Corps, labs, and centers of expertise came in to be part of the team," he said.

Col. Osterndorf said that the Corps normally assists in disaster relief for natural disasters. The WTC disaster was different. "We didn't do things like provide ice, provide water, provide emergency housing – these are typical missions that we would conduct in a natural disaster," he said. "We did do debris removal support and we're still doing that. We did do urban search and rescue and structural analysis with buildings that might be damaged. We had survey crews out there monitoring some of the structural skeletons to make sure that the rescue people who were involved in the operation did not become in jeopardy."

Col. Osterndorf said that two of the New England District's tugboats and crews were providing assistance in New York.

The District Engineer said that the city of New York had the capability to deal with its own debris removal requirements and insisted on doing it. "We only provided support," he said. "We provided supplements to what they were doing. We made recommendations, but we did not take charge."

Col. Osterndorf described the unwavering determination of the New York City firefighters to drag themselves to work beyond the point of exhaustion. "No one dared go in and ask them to step aside because they certainly earned the right to be in charge and to do what they needed to do," he said.

The Corps established credibility and enough trust to have the city invite the agency to assist. "There were a number of good people on the ground that managed to link up with the responsible people in the New York City government," he said. "Their professionalism and the way that they approached their mission quickly established trust and confidence and the city started calling on us."

The Corps also established a trust relationship with New York City to assist them long-term. "Generally any type of a disaster like this will be looked at in three phases: response, recovery, and rebuilding," said Col. Osterndorf. "As we look at it, there is a role for the Corps all the way through those three

Photo by Peter Shugert.

Corps employees had to earn the trust of firemen and rescue workers before they were invited to assist in recovery efforts at the World Trade Center.

phases."

The Corps also forged a strong bond with FEMA. "When we got there, the Chief of Engineers had a meeting with the national director of FEMA to let him know that he could count on the Corps of Engineers to be a trusted agent, confidant, and strong supporter of FEMA. The people there in the ERRO now are strong allies with FEMA."

Another Corps mission during the WTC disaster was to tell the nation, through the media, what the Corps is doing. "The Corps of Engineers' red shirts are out there performing debris management, structural, search and rescue and driving boats that has attracted the media," said the Commander. "We had to put an organization on the ground that could focus all the media inquiries and present a factual story about what we were doing. We were successful."

Col. Osterndorf said the work done in New York City was a defining moment for the Corps and for the New England District. "Our role in support of the nation has changed. Emergency Operations is no longer an afterthought. There is no doubt anymore about the capability of this District to respond to a crisis. When we were called upon, we answered."

Col. Osterndorf recognized the employees at Concord Park for their part in the operation, especially the employees in Emergency Operations. "We could tell that you were standing on alert to go ahead and support us and that there was a great level of effort. I appreciate that very much."

The District Engineer said he was glad the regular business, particularly the Fiscal Year End, was on track. "Even though we took some prime time players and placed them down range where they needed to be, the rest of the District stepped up and took care of the Fiscal Year close out," he said.

At the time of this article, Col. Osterndorf said the work at the World Trade Center is still ongoing and that 13 District employees continue to be deployed to New York. The Corps could also be called upon in the future to support military activities when the nation's response is determined.

Photo by Larry Hawthorne

Larry Rosenberg gets an update from a Corps employee working in the Red Zone.

Dick Carlson, Chief, Construction-Operations was part of the team in New York and described what he saw at ground zero. He said the firefighters were incredible and that the amount of paper lying around struck him.

Dick said that the District's organization was set up at Pier 90, on West 50th Street, about a mile from the site. "We provided support to all the activities," he said. "Our expertise is structural, so we were advising other rescue teams whether it was safe to descend into a hole."

He said that the ERRO was comprised of the New England and Philadelphia District. "Everybody just pulled together as a team," he said. "We don't have the benefit of being an Army unit that trains together. But in pretty short order, the New England and Philadelphia Districts formed a very effective team to support the city of New York."

Dick thanked the EOC staff and the administrative support. "If you have to worry about where you're going to sleep, whether you're going to get paid or those kind of things, sometimes you don't worry about higher level things," he said.

While Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs, found himself leading the USACE Public Affairs Support Team upon arrival, he spoke about his experience in New York from a personal perspective rather than discussing the many public affairs successes such as 60 Minutes and the Corps daily media advisory and talking points that were utilized by all, from the White House and FEMA headquarters, to the Cape Cod Times.

"There was a passion growing in all of us (in Public Affairs) that we were contributing to the greater good by weaving our tales of the real heroes so the American public could have insight into the catastrophe that turned Manhattan into a nightmare world of smoke, rumble and tears, " said Larry. "Our world changed at 8:45 on September eleventh and that passion has spread throughout the country. I know in my heart that our new world will be a better place. I know because I saw the seeds being planted by the New York City Firemen and Policemen, by the Corps structural engineers, by the search and rescue teams from all over this great land, and by the people of New York — and this is one harvest I know will be tended.

"I am proud to have been be part of that team and my mementos are those memories — not of being suddenly summoned to witness something great and horrendous, but of making a small contribution by representing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

Photos by C.J. Allen

Volunteers pause from their work to sing the "Star Spangled Banner" during National Public Lands Day.

Buffumville Lake/Hodges Village Dam celebrate 10th National Public Lands Day

Buffumville Lake and Hodges Village Dam celebrated their 10th Public Lands Day, and their 7th National Public Lands Day (NPLD) anniversary with lots of volunteers, chores, food, and music. The two day event (Sept. 22 and Sept. 29) marked the decade-long tradition of volunteers coming out to improve the flood control projects.

Lt. Col. Rovero and his Boy Scout troop put their muscles into their project at Buffumville Lake/Hodges Village Dam.

Over 300 volunteers arrived over the two days for an early registration and work assignments. Work that volunteers performed included constructing a new trail around a beaver pond, landscape plantings, constructing a canoe take-out, installing park benches, and putting in 16 concrete tee pads and creating an overlook area at Buffumville Lake's disc golf course.

"National Public Lands Day is a time when the public can help improve the public lands and waters," said Park Manager David Stidham. "The New England District's Buffumville Lake and Hodges Village Dam were selected as one of over 200 locations in 48 states to host the national volunteer day."

Groups such as Boy and Girl Scout Troops and Oxford High School's Project COFFEE, as well as individuals and their families came from all over the state to participate.

Lt. Col. John Rovero, Deputy District Engineer, traded his Army uniform for a Scout leader uniform for the day and brought his troop, number 26, from Pepperell to help.

Basin Manager Bob Hanacek and his son's Boy Scout troop, number 273, from Dudley were also there. Vince Kordack, Buffumville Lake Park Ranger Jamie Kordack's husband, has never missed a public lands day event and became a team leader this year.

In keeping with the current patriotic mood, volunteers saluted the American flag while the "Star Spangled Banner" played. A free barbecue, courtesy of Buffumville's "Chief Cook" (Park Ranger Ken Hester), was provided to the volunteers after their work was complete. Younger volunteers bounced in a moonwalk and participated in a treasure hunt while adults listened to "Off Yer Rockers," a band comprised of six University of Connecticut professors.

A group photograph taken on the day is to be made into certificates of appreciation to be sent to every volunteer for their work. In addition, 10th anniversary t-shirts were given to all participants.

District employees who participated in the event were Merlon Bassett, Jan Bacigalupo, Keith Beecher, Viola Bramel, Joe Faloretti, Jim Hachigian, Bob Hanacek, Ken Hester, Claudia Jean Hixson, Jamie Kordack, Gerald Michaud, Tim Russell, David Stiddem, Rebecca Tibets, and Lt. Col. John Rovero.

Park Host volunteers Pat and Howard Southern and Bill and Carol Nelson and Buffumville Lake's volunteer Office Clerk Cliff Reiss also provided support for National Public Lands Day.

National Public Lands Day is sponsored locally by the New England District and the Hodges Village Environmental Education Association. It is sponsored nationally by the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation and Toyota.

Organizations that donated money, materials, and equipment were: Hodges Village Environmental Education Assoc.; Bay State Barefooters; New England Flying Disc Association; Butler Fuels; Gatzke Hardware; American Polymers, Inc.; Concord Wire; Pratt Trucking; Honey Farms; and C.M.T.S. Service Center; Lynn Tremblay; John S. Lane & Son; and Harry S. Stone; Shaws Supermarkets; and Emo and Son Construction.

A volunteer spreads mulch to improve the looks of Buffumville Lake/ Hodges Village Dam Flood Control project.

Volunteers spread sand onto a trail as part of their work during National Public Lands Day. Over 300 volunteers sacrificed a beautiful fall day to work on improvements to the District's flood control project.

Above: Soup's on! Volunteers slave over hot grills to feed hungry work crews after the work portion of National Public Lands Day was concluded.

Dredging up the past . . .

Division Engineer Col. Thomas Rhen presents certificates to Tim Buckelew, Larry Bergen, Nick Forbes, Joe Finegan, Farrell McMillan and Bob Mirick with certificates during the 1987 Founder's Day ceremonies.

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